

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONTINUING THE PEOPLES' BUSINESS

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in our resolve to complete the people's work in the people's House, the U.S. House of Representatives. The measures regarding the environmental sweep which will be conducted in the U.S. House Office Buildings and U.S. Capitol over the next few days are precautionary in nature. When the House reconvenes next week, we will be well positioned to complete the final review of conference reports for the 13 appropriation bills, as well as to consider other important pieces of legislation, including the economic stimulus package and further consideration on measures related to our ability to combat terrorism in our nation and around the globe. Collectively we are resolved to expeditiously complete all of the remaining spending measures for Fiscal Year 2002 prior to the end of the month when the current Continuing Resolution will expire. The work of our federal government continues each day with services, programs, and essential activities.

In addition to the proposals outlined, I would anticipate the House giving final consideration to the conference report on improving our children's educational system. In the Energy and Commerce Committee on which I serve, I am confident we will resume our discussions and debate regarding a national energy policy which continues to focus on how best to deregulate our nation's electricity supply, as well as issues related to the security of that supply. I would anticipate that our bipartisan efforts will continue, and I encourage my colleagues and members of the House leadership to foster the bipartisan spirit for the betterment of our country.

With our national spirit and resolve we will win the fight against terrorism. In my community of Greater Kansas City, the constituents whom I represent are committed, as are all Americans, to maintaining our freedoms in the democracy we cherish.

Mr. Speaker, we return to our districts today to participate in our respective community activities at neighborhoods, businesses, schools, picnics, and other gatherings. We look forward to returning next Tuesday to complete the people's work.

TRIBUTE TO JOE WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to the life and achievements of a constituent from my congressional district who

was not only the father of a close friend, but also a respected citizen of South Arkansas, Joe Williams, Jr., who passed away recently at the age of 66.

Joe Williams, Jr. was born in the southern Arkansas town of Sparkman in 1935. At a young age, he joined the Harmony Baptist Church in the nearby community of Pine Grove. After attending Sparkman Training School, Joe spent time as a young adult living in Kansas City, Missouri, and Dallas, Texas, before returning home to Pine Grove, where he became an invaluable member of the community.

As a young man, he was first employed by the International Paper Company and then by the Taylor Gin Company as a truck driver and a farmer. He later held jobs with Georgia Pacific Corporation as a jitney driver as well as St. Clair Rubber Company as a press operator before retiring to his beloved country farm in Pine Grove.

Joe led an active and productive life, yet he always put his family first. He maintained a strong commitment to the church and took an active role in local politics in Dallas County. When he wasn't working or serving his community, he liked to spend time hunting, fishing, working on and collecting automobiles, gardening, or working with his farm tractor.

Joe Williams, Jr. will long be remembered for his dedication to his family, his work, and his community. His passing is a great loss not only to those who knew him well, but to all of South Arkansas. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Elzadie, his sons, Stanley and Stacy, and all his family and friends.

INTRODUCING NEW LEGISLATION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer an important piece of legislation that will help Americans respond to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on our nation. Many citizens are wondering what they can do to help win the war on terrorism. The bill I am introducing would temporarily waive the penalties against those who for whatever reason have neglected to sign up with the Selective Service System if they register within 60 days after this becomes law.

We all know that American males must register for the military draft when they turn 18. As a member of the House VA-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee, which funds the Selective Service System, I have learned that roughly 13 percent of our young men do not perform this basic duty. After seeing the registration rate decline for most of the 1990's, it is now remaining steady for the last two years due to an emphasis on programs and initiatives around the country to increase awareness.

Registering for the military draft has never been easier or more convenient. During the

60-day amnesty period outlined in the bill, young men can register via Internet or telephone. Furthermore, a nationwide high school registration blitz and new state laws have all served to assist the Selective Service in their responsibility. Let me be clear, this legislation neither calls for, or presupposes the reinstatement of the draft. It is simply a matter of preparedness at a time when our Nation must be prepared in every aspect.

Under Federal law, there are serious consequences for failing to register for the draft. Penalties for not registering if convicted are up to 5 years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines, or a combination of both. Although the Department of Justice can prosecute for failure to register, the normal sanctions for not registering are denial of Federal and some State student aid, government job training, State and Federal employment and U.S. citizenship for immigrants seeking naturalization. Under this legislation, these penalties are waived if a young man fulfills his duty within 60 days of enactment of this law.

I would point out that penalties for failing to register with the Selective Service are not limited to federal law. Six states (Oklahoma, Delaware, Utah, Arkansas, Hawaii, and Georgia) currently deny state drivers licenses if one is not registered and other states are contemplating similar laws.

The terrorist attacks on America September 11th and the loss of innocent lives in this tragedy has demonstrated the real and credible danger to the freedom of our country and its citizens. In peacetime and in time of war, the Selective Service System has been a strong backbone for our military and our country. This legislation further strengthens our preparedness while allowing young American men the chance to get right with the law.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues to help Americans fulfill their patriotic duty during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 386, I was unable to cast my vote due to a previous commitment in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANTONIO MEUCCI

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, Italian-Americans have contributed greatly to the United

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